

**APPLICATION FOR  
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

**AUTOMATIC GROCERY BAG OPENER**

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## **[0001] AUTOMATIC GROCERY BAG OPENER**

### **[0002] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

#### **[0003] 1. Technical Field**

5      **[0004]** This invention generally relates to a plastic bag dispensers, and in particular to produce or grocery bag dispensers that facilitate opening of a bag to be filled with groceries.

#### **[0005] 2. State of the Art**

10      **[0006]** Devices of the past include bag holders and dispensers that are combined with other support structures such as checkout stands or other cabinet structures. Some devices of the past are complex, having extensive automation for filling bags with products and for moving the bags once filled, for example. Other bag dispensing devices are simple and require user manipulation for operation and/or adjustment.

### **[0007] DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION**

15      **[0008]** The present invention relates to a device which is used to automatically open plastic and polyethylene bags with forced air in produce departments and at checkout counters of grocery stores. The device also automatically turns on and off depending on a detected presence of a user. Hence, the present invention overcomes the deficiencies of the past by providing a standalone device that is not necessarily combined with other structures, such as cabinets. Furthermore, the present invention has automation in which  
20      other simpler devices of the past are deficient. That is the present invention automatically turns on and off and automatically opens the first bag in a stack of grocery bags to be dispensed.

[0009] The foregoing and other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following more detailed description of the particular embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

#### [0010] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 [0011] FIG. 1 is a partial sectional side view according to an embodiment of the present invention.

#### [0012] DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0013] As discussed above, embodiments of the present invention relate to an automatic bag opener and dispenser.

10 [0014] As shown in FIG. 1, bags are held in position from several different types of hangers on a front of an enclosure (D). The outside bag is forced and held open by the forced airstream from the air supply. The bag can then be filled with the items. Once the bag is filled, it is removed from the hanger. The next bag is automatically blown and held open. By switching on, the feed through cord switch (A) starts the shaded pole blower  
15 (B) to force the air flow (C) out of the bagger enclosure (D) to open plastic or polyethylene bags located on the lower bag holder (B) on the front of the bagger Enclosure (D). Additionally or alternatively, the front can have another upper bag holder or hanger supported on an upper portion of the front as shown in Figure 1. As long as the motion sensor (F) sees movement the shaded pole blower (B) stays on. If no movement  
20 is seen, the motion sensor (F) sends an electric signal to a time delay relay (G) plugged into a relay socket (H) turning off the shaded pole blower (B). In turn, if the Motion Sensor (F) sees motion of a person walking up to or near the Motion Sensor (F), the Time Delay Relay (G) sends an electric signal to the shaded pole blower (B) turning the Bagger back on and making the bagger an automatic bagging system.

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[0015] Additional details are incorporated herein by reference to Disclosure Document No. 496447. This document has been included for convenience in an appendix.

5 [0016] The embodiments and examples set forth herein were presented in order to best explain the present invention and its practical application and to thereby enable those of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. However, those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the foregoing description and examples have been presented for the purposes of illustration and example only. The description as set forth is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many  
10 modifications and variations are possible in light of the teachings above without departing from the spirit and scope of the forthcoming claims.